Minutes

Attendance:
Committee Members - Wes Payne, Chair, Jill Scheidt, Vice Chair, James Antoniono, Sheryl Axelrod, Marisa Lattimore, Jackie Martinez, Bill Pugh & Mike Reed
Staff - Barry Simpson, Fran O’Rourke, Trent Hargrove, Louann Bell, Dick McCoy, & Nancy Mulloy-Bonn

Wes chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes
Due to the lack of a quorum, the January minutes will be voted on during the May 2 meeting.

Chair Report
Wes advised the members that his position of minority-at-large governor would be open as of May 12, 2017. Barry reported that PBA President Sara Austin has reached out to Tyra Oliver to fill Wes’s seat on the Board of Governors and Tyra has accepted the appointment. The Board will officially approve Tyra’s appointment during their conference call meeting on March 13. Wes noted that he created a list of minority attorneys interested in moving up in leadership in PBA who could be considered for future openings. They are Phil Yoon, Norris Benns, Guerline Laurore and Judge Kim Clark.

Diversity & Inclusion Award
Trent advised that two nominations had been received to date. After discussion it was decided that the deadline for submissions should be extended to March 10. Trent will send a notice out to the various eligible groups to advise them of the extension. Once the deadline has passed, Trent will forward all of them to the Diversity Team members for an email vote to select the award recipient.

Amendment to Professional Rules of Conduct Related to Prohibiting Discrimination
There is nothing to be done or report on in regards to this issue so it will be removed from the agenda unless that changes in the future.

Attorney Registration Question
Paul Killian, Disciplinary Counsel, advised Barry that the Disciplinary Board has been asked to look into this issue. Barry and Mr. Killian are making arrangements to meet to discuss this further.
House of Delegates Term Limits Task Force
Barry reported that the PBA Task Force on HOD Term Limits has met a couple of times. The task force has decided to survey the members as to their experiences. All PBA members received the survey electronically. Once the responses have been reviewed the task force will meet again.

Report of the Diversity Officer
Trent reported a working group has been put together for a western PA Minority & Women Lawyer Business Development Forum. Ken Horoho and Carl Cooper have agreed to co-chair that group.

Diversity & Inclusion Professionals of Central PA is having their conference on April 28 at Central PA Business College. The theme is Diversity & Inclusion as a Central Business Strategy. Trent will chair that panel discussion.

WIP Recommendation for Mandatory CLE Requirements for Diversity & Inclusion
Since there was not a quorum at today’s meeting, the Team members will be asked to vote to support or oppose this recommendation via email. Wes will draft the email to be distributed to the Team members.

Report of PBI Executive Director
Dick reported that the PBI Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet. He has reached out to the co-chairs of the Minority Bar Committee for suggestions of possible nominees to the PBI Board. He also noted that Jackie Martinez is the chair of the PBI Diversity Committee. That committee is trying to identify liaisons for each of the PBI institutes. Another goal of the committee is to have more women and minorities on the institutes’ faculties.

Dick advised that PBI is continuing to work on CLE programs with Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA-PA) and the Hispanic Bar Association. The northeast region of the National APABA is planning a program for September 9, 2017 and would like to use the PBI facility for this. PBI is currently working with them on this and after that is done will then begin to work with APABA-PA on a CLE program for early in 2018. He reported that they are still working with the Hispanic Bar Association on a program, but it is slow in coming together.

Next Meeting Date
The next meeting is scheduled for May 2 at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.